

Message Text

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21

ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DLOS-03 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 AID-05

CEQ-01 EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01 OES-03 (ISO) W

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P 150952Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1842

COMDT COGARD WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CNO WASHDC

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPAC HONO HI

DIA WASHDC

CCGDFOURTEEN HONOLULU HI

COMPACAREA COGARD SAN FRANCISCO CA

COMLANTAREA COGARD NEW YORK NY

COMCOGARD SEASEC BANGKOK TH

NST ATLANTIC ELIZABETH CITY NJ

RUCLFWA/NST GULF BAY ST LOUIS MS

NST PACIFIC SAN FRANCISCO CA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, SENV, TGEN, SN

SUBJ: GROUNDED JAPANESE TANKER SHOWA MARU IN SINGAPORE

STRAITS

REF: A. STATE 008954; B. STATE 009256

1. SALVAGE FIRM IN CHARGE OF SHOWA MARU SALVAGE OPERATION, SELCO

PTE. LTD., SUCCEEDED IN REFLOATING TANKER APPROXIMATELY 150225Z

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JAN 15. TANKER STILL LOCATED INDONESIAN WATERS APPROXIMATELY 1

KILOMETER WEST OF BUFFALO ROCK BUT WILL BE MOVED SHORT DISTANCE LATER SAME DAY TO BE ANCHORED IN DEEPER WATERS. HOWEVER, TANKER WILL NOT BE MOVED OUT OF INDONESIAN WATERS. APPROXIMATELY 45,000 TONS OIL HAVE BEEN REMOVED. SELCO PLANS TO REMOVE AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 TONS WITH PORTABLE PUMPS. TANKER'S INSTALLED PUMPING SYSTEM WILL THEN BE EMPLOYED TO PUMP OUT ALL REMAINING OIL.

2. GOS HAS NO OBJECTION TO VISIT OF DR. HAROLD SNYDER OF EPA TO OBSERVE EFFECTS OF DISPERSANTS ON MARINE LIFE FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER STUDY. GOS ALSO INFORMED EMBASSY THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS CONCERNING THE OIL SPILL CURRENTLY HAS PLANS FOR SUCH A STUDY. PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF LAW AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLOSELY MONITORING AND TESTING

EFFECTS OF DISPERSANTS ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN SINGAPORE WATERS, BUT HAS NO PLANS AS YET FOR LONGER TERM STUDY. ROLE OF MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN SHOWA MARU INCIDENT HAS SO FAR BEEN CONFINED TO MONITORING POSSIBLE SHORE POLLUTION IF OIL SLICKS REACHED BEACH AREAS. THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED SO FAR.

3. FOR JAKARTA: SINCE EPA OBSERVER ACCOMPANYING CG TEAM WILL DOUBT-LESS WANT TO GO TO SCENE OF SPILL, SUGGEST EMBASSY JAKARTA CLEAR WITH GOI PRESENCE OF EPA OFFICIAL IN INDONESIAN WATERS TO OBSERVE EFFECTS OF OIL SPILL.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO SUBMIT DAILY SITUATION REPORTS TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO SHOWA MARU AND EFFORTS TO SALVAGE VESSEL AND DEAL WITH OIL SPILL. TO AVOID DUPLICATION COAST GUARD OFFICE ATTACHED TO THIS EMBASSY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THIS REPORT AND CONFINE ITS MESSAGES TO LOGISTICAL AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS RELATED TO THE TEAM'S REQUIREMENTS. CRONK

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